



Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues
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February 21, 2012

Good Afternoon Chairman Kurtz, Vice-Chair O'Brien, and Members of the House, Families, Children and Seniors Committee:

My name is Bette Hawkins and I am the President of Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (or KCASI as we call it).

KCASI is a 501c3 organization whose purpose is to advocate as a non-partisan group for the improvement of conditions affecting the lives of older adults and future generations. We have monthly programs that educate members and the general public on pertinent topics and we invite our legislators to these meetings to have conversations about issues and legislation that KCASI follows.

We would like you to know that KCASI has been advocating for the Elder Abuse bills now before your committee for the past several years. We are very pleased that in this session, these bills are being seriously considered, because elder abuse and financial exploitation are serious issues. The bills will give law enforcement, banks, individuals, and state departments more tools to help prevent abuse and prosecute abusers, and will let abusers know that they will pay dearly for acts against vulnerable adults.

We wanted to let you know through our personal visit and testimony that KCASI is supportive of all of the bills and urges their passage as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion.